from oil-seeds, manufacture of gur, khandsari, fruit processing and preservation. The KVIC Act has now been amended to cover any type of industries located in rural areas having a population of less than 10,000 with per capita fixed investment upto Rs. 15,000. After the amendment to the KVIC Act, the Commission has drawn up a phased programme for promotion of new industries in addition to the existing scheduled industries. During 1988-89, 34 new industries including agro-based and food industries included within the purview of KVIC have been identified for which model schemes and pattern of financial assistance are being framed. With this, rural industries including food processing industries covered within the purview of KVIC are expected to receive an impetus.

Shortage of pig iron

347. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundry industry in the country is suffering from acute scarcity of pig iron, resulting in the large scale imports thereof; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether removal of pig iron from OGL and its canalisation through MMTC has contributed to worsening of the situation;

(c) if so, what remedial action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of pig iron?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Government has received representations from the foundry industry and others complaining about inadequate supplies and shortage of pig iron as domestic production is not sufficient to meet the entire demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Availability of Pig iron depends on the production of hot metal to meet the requirements of crude steel production in the steel plants. Steel Authority of India Limited plans to increase its production of pig iron in 1988-89 over the production level during 1987-88. Besides, the availability of pig iron is expected to improve with the commissioning of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

वन उपजों के समर्थन मूल्य

348. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार आदिवासी व्यक्तियों को बिचौलियों के शोषण से बचाने के लिये उनको वन उपजों जैसे महुआ, चिरोंजी, गोंद, इमली, आंवला, हरी, बहेरा आदि के समर्थन मूल्य उसी प्रकार निश्चित करने का विचार रखती है जैसा कि कई कृषि उपजों के मामलों में किया जाता है ,

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार आदिवासी व्यक्तियों को व्यापारी और बिचौलियों के शोषण से बचाने के लिये क्या उपाय कर रही है; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि जो सहकारी समितियां इन क्षेत्रों में बनाई गयी हैं वे इन वन उपजों को खरीद पाने की स्थिति में नहीं है, यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार शोषण को रोकने के लिये इन उपजों की सीधी खरीद करने पर विचार करेगी ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्याम लाल यादव) : (क) से (ग) जानकारी